

Message Text

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44

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-08 ARA-10 EA-09 EUR-12 NEA-10 OIC-02

AID-05 EB-07 SP-02 L-03 H-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

OMB-01 ABF-01 TRSE-00 DHA-02 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15

/113 W

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R 201100Z JUL 76

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1299

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS GENEVA 5768

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECOSOC

SUBJECT: 61ST ECOSOC, ITEM 18; INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD

1. THE CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE HAS COMPLETED GENERAL DEBATE ON THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD ITEM 18. THE TEXT OF THE PROPOSED DRAFT RESOLUTION, PREPARED BY THE SECRETARIAT AND NORWEGIAN DELEGATION IS INCLUDED AS PARA 5 OF THIS CABLE. THE DRAFT RESOLUTION RECOMMENDS THAT THE GA DECLARE 1979 AS THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD AND DESIGNATE UNICEF AS THE LEAD AGENCY. THE RESOLUTION ALSO ASKS THE SECRETARIAT TO PREPARE A FURTHER REPORT, WITH REVISED ESTIMATES OF COSTS AND STAFFING REQUIREMENTS. THIS PROVISION REFLECTS NEARLY UNIVERSAL CRITICISM OF ALLOCATION OF HALF OF THE \$8 MILLION BUDGET FOR 48-PERSON STAFF.

2. USDEL PARTICIPATED IN OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP AND BELIEVES THIS DRAFT MEETS US POSITION. USDEL RECOMMENDS SUPPORT FOR THIS DRAFT AND ALSO SUGGESTS US INDICATE WILLINGNESS TO CO-SPONSOR. DEPARTMENT INSTRUCTIONS REQUESTED.

3. HIGHLIGHTS OF GENERAL DEBATE INCLUDE STATEMENT BY NORWEGIAN DELEGATION AT OPENING OF
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DEBATE PROMISING FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR IYC. NO

FURTHER PLEDGES OR HINTS OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT WERE HEARD. STRONGEST OPPOSITION TO IYC CAME FROM DANISH DELEGATION WHICH NOTED ITS OPPOSITION IN PRINCIPLE TO INTERNATIONAL YEARS AND NO CONTRIBUTION TO IYC WAS UNDER CONSIDERATION. MAJORITY OF OTHER SPEAKERS NOTED VARYING DEGREES OF SUPPORT FOR PRINCIPLE OF IYC, EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT ALL UN SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND BODIES WERE NOT CO-OPERATING FULLY, SUGGESTED THAT UNICEF BE PRINCIPAL CO-ORDINATING AGENCY, AND INSISTED THAT PREPARED BUEGET AND STAFFING PATTERN BE GIVEN MAJOR OVERHUAL AND BE REVISED DOWNWARD.

5. BEGIN TEXT

THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL,

HAVING CONSIDERED THE REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ENTITLED "MEASURES AND MODALITIES TO ENSURE THE ADEQUATE PREPARATION, SUPPORT AND FINANCING OF AN INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD" 1/ PREPARED PURSUANT TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 3406 (XXX) AND ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1962 (LIX);

NOTING THAT MOST DELEGATIONS AGREED ON THE UTILITY AND DESIRABILITY OF AN INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD FOR ALL THE CHILDREN OF THE WORLD, PROVIDED IT WAS ASSURED ADEQUATE FINANCIAL SUPPORT;

CONSIDERING THAT AN INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD COULD MOST APPROPRIATELY BE ARRANGED IN 1979, THE TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DECLARATION OF THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD, AND THAT THE YEAR SHOULD BE DECLARED AT THE 31ST SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN ORDER TO ENSURE SUFFICIENT TIME FOR PREPARATIONS;

BELIEVING THAT THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND INTERESTED NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS SHOULD HAVE AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN AN INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD AND THE UNICEF SHOULD BE THE LEAD AGENCY IN PREPARING AND IMPLEMENTING THE YEAR;

1. EXPRESSES ITS APPRECIATION TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR A USEFUL REPORT AND TO THE ORGANIZATIONS CONCERNED IN THE UNCLASSIFIED

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UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM AND INTERESTED NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO ITS PREPARATION;

2. TAKES NOTE OF THE REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AS A BASIS FOR FURTHER ELABORATION OF PLANS FOR AN INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD;

3. REQUESTS THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO SUBMIT TO THE 31ST

SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY A FURTHER REPORT, INCLUDING REVISED ESTIMATES OF COSTS AND STAFFING REQUIREMENTS, IN LIGHT OF THE DISCUSSION IN THE POLICY AND PROGRAMME COORDINATION COMMITTEE AT THE 61ST SESSION OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL;

4. RECOMMENDS THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

A. DECLARE THE YEAR 1979 AS THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD PROVIDED THAT ARRANGEMENTS FOR ITS FINANCING HAVE BEEN ENSURED;

B. CALL UPON ALL COMPETENT AGENCIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD, INCLUDING INFORMATION ACTIVITIES, AND DESIGNATE UNICEF AS THE LEAD AGENCY FOR THIS PURPOSE;

5. BELIEVES THAT ALL INTERESTED GOVERNMENTS SHOULD PARTICIPATE FULLY IN THE FURTHER FORMULATION OF THE OBJECTIVES AND PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES OF AN INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD AT SUBSEQUENT SESSIONS OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY;

6. URGES INTERESTED GOVERNMENTS IN A POSITION TO DO SO, AS WELL AS NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS, TO MAKE VOLUNTARY PLEDGES OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD. END TEXT. DALE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CHILDREN, MEETING AGENDA, AGREEMENT DRAFT, RESOLUTIONS, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976GENEVA05768
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760278-1005
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760742/aaaabkfg.tel
Line Count: 142
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 APR 2004 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <27 JAN 2005 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: 61ST ECOSOC, ITEM 18; INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD
TAGS: EGEN, PORG, US, ECOSOC, INTL YEAR OF THE CHILD
To: STATE
USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006